

CLAUDIA (GRAPER) SHANK



Claudia (Graper) Shank of Linesville, formerly of Franklin Park passed away peacefully on September 1, 2024 after a brief battle with cancer. Claudia was born to William and Claudia Graper in Pittsburgh on July 28, 1949. She grew up in Franklin Park with her parents and 5 siblings. In high school, she was a 3 sport female athlete (in the days before Title IX). Claudia was on North Allegheny School District's

gymnastics and track & field teams and NA's first ever Girl's basketball team. She played on their undefeated 1966 team, a record that stood for several decades.

Claudia had dreams of working with children and so after the birth of her two daughters, Laurie and Michelle, she began working for North Allegheny. She worked at Franklin Elementary School as the playground aide. Known then as Mrs. Phelan, she was famous for coming up with the best recess games. She was a coach for Girl's gymnastics and softball throughout her local area. Later, she worked at Carson Middle School as the AV assistant and the Assistant Principal's Secretary. She also coached the Girl's basketball team and ran the AV club for students. Additionally, Claudia was an entrepreneur, running a vintage jewelry and clothing business in her retirement.

In her free time, she enjoyed spending time with her daughters, nieces and nephews, and large extended family, but her greatest joy in life came when she and husband, Doug, became Nana and Pop Pop to their 4 grandchildren. Being Nana was her favorite role - she often referred to herself as such in the third person! Along with Doug, she doted on the four grandchildren, always planning traditions and celebrations for Christmas, birthdays, and summers at the Lake.

Claudia spent her retirement years in Linesville, PA at the Pymatuning Lake house she shared with her husband of almost 40 years, Doug. They spent their days there hosting family and friends and relaxing together... birdwatching, gardening, traveling, eating good food, kayaking, boating and enjoying the company of Claudia's cats. She spent her childhood summers at Pymatuning Lake and it was lovely that she was able to spend her final years there as well.

Claudia is survived by her soulmate and husband, Doug, daughters Laurie Abel (Scott) and their children Bridget and Greg of Marshall Township, PA, and Michelle Niksa (Jamie) and their children Meredith and Valerie of Weston, FL. Her siblings: Judi Schroeder (Gary), Wayne Graper (Lori), Bill Graper (Lynn), and Rick Graper (JoAnna) Her sisters in law: Lesley Malarkey (Tom) and Kathleen Shank (Sally Brice), and her many beloved nieces and nephews and their children. She was preceded in death by her parents William and Claudia Graper, parents-in-law William and Dorothy Shank, sister and brother-in-law Pat and Ben Williams, sister-in-law Linda Diley Graper, and nephew Rob Reis.

Claudia's family invites friends and loved ones to join them for a Memorial Service at **SIMON'S FUNERAL HOME** on Saturday, October 12, 2024 from 10am-12:30pm.

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